

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01679 030934Z

64 S

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 PM-03 INR-05 /030 W

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R 030816Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4666

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EAID, TW, VS

SUBJECT: AID TO INDOCHINA

WASHINGTON FOR ASST SECRETARY HABIB EYES ONLY

1. AT LUNCH YESTERDAY AT RESIDENCE CONGRESSMAN OTTO E. PASSMAN (HERE ON QUIET, UNOFFICIAL VISIT) SPOKE OUT VEHEMENTLY ABOUT THE IMMENSE VALUE OF US-SUPPLIED MILITARY AND OTHER EQUIPMENT WHICH SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES HAVE ABANDONED IN THEIR RETREAT. PASSMAN'S COMMENTS LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT AS A RESULT HE CONSIDERED THE AID PROGRAM "FINISHED." IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER HE REFERRED ONLY TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

2. UNDOUBTEDLY HE WAS STIMULATED AT LEAST IN PART BY SUCH COMMENTS AS THOSE CONTAINED IN THIS MORNING'S CHINA POST, FOR EXAMPLE: 1) THE AP-CAPTIONED ARTICLE REFERRING TO EVENTS AT CHINA BEACH NEAR DANANG WHERE "APCS WERE DRIVEN NEAR THE LST AND THEN ABANDONED BY THE MEN WHO ALLOWED THEM TO SINK SLOWLY INTO THE SAND, PART OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF EQUIPMENT ABANDONED"; AND 2) AP REPORT FROM WASHINGTON QUOTING "AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES" ESTIMATING THAT "AT LEAST 200-300 HELICOPTERS AND FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN CAPTURED SO FAR, SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THEM ALL READY TO FLY."

3. FOREGOING UNDOUBTEDLY ALREADY GENERALLY
KNOW TO DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY SAIGON BUT CONSIDERED
IT USEFUL REPORT PASSMAN'S COMMENTS, GIVEN HIS KEY ROLE.
UNGER

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Message Attributes

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